

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Mystery Rubric 2011-12

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Demonstrates Organizational Structure	Writer is able to transition between settings to make the story more complex. Clues and red herrings are sophisticatedly woven throughout the story.	Plot has a clear beginning and middle, which lead to a solution. The story is organized around the discovery of clues and red herrings.	Beginning, middle and end are present but leave gaps in the reader's understanding. Clues and red herrings are present but are too obvious to the reader.	The story lacks an organizational structure. Clues and red herrings are not present.
Demonstrates Elaboration	The writer expertly balances details, actions, dialogue and setting in a way that effectively creates a movie in the mind of the reader. The reader can envision the moment clearly in their mind.	The writer effectively balances details, actions, dialogue and setting to allow the reader to envision what is happening in the narrative.	The writer attempts to balance the narrative and use detail. They could use actions, dialogue, and setting more effectively to create a picture for the reader. The reader is missing important details that impact their understanding of the moment.	Few details are included making it very difficult for the reader to develop an understanding of what is happening in the narrative. The basic who, what, where, why are not present.
Demonstrates meaning and significance	Story ideas actually lend themselves to becoming a complex mystery. Story ideas generated are unique and unpredictable.	Story ideas actually lend themselves to becoming a mystery. Story ideas generated are appropriate and interesting.	Story idea does not allow for the development of a mystery. Story ideas are either appropriate or interesting.	Story idea does not meet the criteria of a mystery. Story ideas are neither appropriate nor interesting.
Uses correct conventions	All words are spelled correctly. Sophisticated punctuation is used to create complex sentences. Paragraphing is used to enhance the writing.	High-frequency words are spelled correctly. Ending punctuation is used properly. The piece is written in paragraph form.	Spelling errors begin to distract the reader. Ending punctuation is not used properly. Paragraphing is unclear.	Numerous spelling errors make the piece unclear for a reader. Ending punctuation is not present. Paragraphing is not attempted.
Uses varied writer's craft (Applies mini-lessons)	Writer consistently and effectively demonstrates understanding of mini-lessons and strategies given in class. They apply strategies in a way that is beyond grade level expectations.	Writer effectively demonstrates understanding of mini-lessons and attempts to apply strategies to their piece to increase the overall quality of the piece.	At times the writer demonstrates understanding of a mini-lesson or attempts to utilize a strategy. It is difficult to see evidence that the strategies were used effectively in the final piece.	Little or no evidence can be found that attempts were made to apply strategies of mini-lessons in the final piece.
Follows writing process	Multiple drafts were written prior to publishing this piece. Further, the writer has revised using the strategies presented in class and demonstrates revising skills independently.	Multiple drafts were written prior to publishing this piece. Writer used revision strategies.	One draft was written prior to publishing this piece. Writer did minimal revisions and made a minimal attempt to utilize peers and adults to edit.	Writer did not produce drafts in a timely manner to utilize revision strategies.
Effort	Based on time given throughout the unit, it is apparent the author utilized time wisely both in class and outside of class.	Based on time given throughout the unit, it is apparent the author used their time wisely during most of the writing sessions.	It is evident that the author often did not use their time wisely in class.	Student did not demonstrate the ability to write independently and consistently needed multiple cues and reminders to stay on task during the unit.